

Extortion no Ufury ;

OR,

The Merits of a late ELECTION.

DISCUSSED IN A

DIALOGUE

BETWEEN

MINOS, LORD RUSSELL,
CHARLES CHURCHILL,
AND
JEREMIAH DYSON, Esquire.

*Ut si quis asellum
In campo doceat parentem currere frænis.*

HOR.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. WILLIAMS, Fleet-Street.

M D C C L X X V I I .

(Price One Shilling.)

Extortion no Ulmy;

OR

The Merits of a late ELECTION.

DISCUSSED IN A

DIALOGUE

BETWEEN

MINOS, LORD RUSSELL,
CHARLES BURCHILL,



TERMINUS, ETC.

THESE ARE THE

REMARKS OF THE

HON.

LONDON

Printed for J. WILLIAMS, Esq.

STREET

(The Old Strand)

T O

BENJAMIN HOPKINS.

S I R,

AS soon as I determined to publish the following dialogue, which dropt, I know not how, into my hands. I at the same time embraced the resolution of dedicating it in form to you. Your numerous virtues, I knew would furnish abundant matter of panegyric, the usual matter of which dedications are composed; and I hoped that (the perusal of it being likely to render them service)

vice) the universal esteem of your good character would recommend this trifle to the notice and favour of the public.

Were I to dwell upon all your virtues as they deserve, this dedication would, I am afraid, run into volumes. I will therefore, from the long, the awful, and the shining train of excellencies which surround you, select one, as little praised as practised by the common head of writers, and of men.

Frugality, in men of princely fortunes is a *rare* quality, and therefore, if for no other reason, ought to attract our admiration and reverence. Your fortune, Sir, is indeed a princely one, and yet you use it with all possible abstinence and moderation. Blessed are
the

D E D I C A T I O N. 5

the poor in spirit. Thrice blessed then is the worthy Chamberlain of London, who consenteth to mortify in the midst of plenty, and putteth away the abominations of vain and sensual pleasures, when the east and west would pour their luxuries round him in endless profusion.

If the acquisition of riches denoteth wisdom, as I think it doth, all the wise men of modern times have pursued such a conduct as yours. Ward fought up against the pomps and vanities of this wicked world; Waters would not indulge the sinful lusts of the flesh; Chartres was a very Bramin in temperance; and you, Sir, still more illustrious than these, your great predecessors, have subdued and broken down every extravagant
appetite,

6 DEDICATION.

appetite, and rendered your passions subservient to the coolest guidance of your reason.

Hence you are enabled to render the community so much service, by curbing the profligacy of its loose and licentious members. For by you the rake is effectually reclaimed from his evil courses; the Libertine detached from his follies. You most feelingly persuade the inconsiderate to reflection, the spendthrift to retrenchment, the drunkard to sobriety, the lascivious to continence, the sinner to the best reformation, and the bitterest repentance. All this you do too in the *darkest* and most private manner. You hate ostentation, and do not wish the world should know how much it is indebted to you.

Should

D E D I C A T I O N.

7

Should the world be so weak, however, as to blame such practices, you have the best defence to produce. Tell them that the purest of all possible motives, induces you to take the trouble of receiving the rents, and inspecting the circumstances of half the minors of Middlesex, but for the sake of the public, a troublesome and disagreeable employment. Assure the world you take their fortunes only from those who are disposed to abuse them, as you would twist an edge tool out of the hands of a child. That thereby you prevent much inconvenience to the community, and much mischief to the individual, drying up at once the spring that would feed a thousand debaucheries. Add to this, that the extravagance of the present age must beggar the next, if the providence of some careful

men

men did not gather up what the loose and
luxurious fling carelessly away. That you not
only advantage the present, but lay up stores
of enjoyment for a future generation.

Such a defence opened, explained, and
urged with that eloquence, which drops
sweeter than honey from your tongue, will
not fail to produce the best effects on the
minds of the people. But should they hesi-
tate, and remain still incredulous (for the
minds of the multitude can be measured by
no certain rule) affirm for the following rea-
sons, that your motive must be most just and
holy. First, that your own fortune being
very large, and your desires very little, you
are under no temptation of drudging, to en-
crease the one, or gratify the other. Affirm
that

D E D I C A T I O N.

that money of your own *honestly come by*, has remained in your chests time out of mind untouched, and then ask them to *what end* you would pile up the money of others. That it would be as useless to you as your own. Secondly, Inform the world, that if any circumstance can wipe away the suspicion of indirection, and add to the lustre of your deeds, it is that you perform them in common, with a race of people, who, tho' scoffed at, and reviled upon earth, have been from time almost immemorial considered and declared the chosen favourites, and elect people of God.

So, Sir, when the day which sees you retreat from the service, at best, of an ungrateful multitude, which day, for your sake I hope

b

it

DEDICATION.

it not at a distance ; it will likewise behold you, not only clear of every imputation of preying upon the wants of your species, but loaded with honour, like the faithful steward in the Gospel, who managed his talents to advantage.

And indeed, Sir, when I consider your humility, a humility which runs through all your virtues, your broken and contrite spirit, refusing the mirth and gaiety of the loose and thoughtless, and delighting to *share* in the miseries of your kind, your charity, which not content with the ills that burden the surface, penetrates into the very bowels of the earth ; and taking the cause of his affliction from the wretch condemned to toil out a joyless, dark, uncomfortable existence, in search
of

DEDICATION.

of a dross, which has its value only in the madness of mankind ; your humanity, which whenever this pernicious metal is lifted into the world, would remove it from the hands of men, and hide it from their eyes for ever ; whenever, Sir, I consider these and the other generous and *disinterested* qualities, which compose your character, I cannot avoid preferring the peace of so excellent a man, to the good of the community, and wishing him, if not in Abraham's bosom, yet in some peaceful retirement where the cares and miseries of mankind could for everafter, neither reach nor molest his quiet.

And if this, or any future writing of mine, can assist in detaching you from a world, for
which

D E D I C A T I O N.

which the melting tenderness of your heart
unfits you, it will be one of those large
satisfactions, which sometimes distend the
breast of,

S I R,

Your unknown

humble Servant,

C. D. R. T. X.

Bank Buildings, May 10th, 1777.

Extortion no Ufury;

O R,

The Merits of a late ELECTION.

Charles Churchill, Minos, Lord Russell,
Jeremiah Dyson.

C H U R C H I L L.

SEE yonder a shade bowing and cringing to Minos, as if he was begging the remission of some harsh sentence. Let us approach him. By Pluto, 'tis he, *Dyson* himself. That man, my lord, has been the most honest, civil, obliging, good-natured gentleman for many years about the court. He would say any thing, or do any thing for payment. Most venerable *Minos*, shall we entreat a respite of this wretch's torments, till I question him about the country he comes from plundering?

B

MINOS.

M I N O S.

I grant it most willingly, Mr. Churchill, tho' I do not believe it will be a respite. A base spirit is never sensible of its own worthlessness, as in the presence of the *noble* and *upright*. And believe me, this mortifying consciousness is the severest punishment which can be inflicted on bad Men in any state. To punish that Creature, adequately to his offences, he ought for ever to be condemned to the conversation of Lord Russell and Mr. Churchill. But for your sakes, he is doomed to a milder chastisement.

C H U R C H I L L.

Minos, accept our most grateful acknowledgements. Mr. *Dyson*, your servant.

D Y S O N.

Oh, Dear Sir, your most obedient humble servant. Any service, Dear Sir, in my power pray be obliging enough to command. I shall feel myself extremely happy to—

C H U R C H I L L.

A truce with your court cant. Know you are now in the regions of *Truth*. Inform me if
you

you can in what situation you have left my country. And then I would be happy to know something of my *Friend*, the second Hambden of England. I need not tell you whom I mean.

D Y S O N.

Dear Sir, be so good as to put off that stern look, and I will give you every information in my power most freely. I feel such a tremor. Do, Dear Sir. Ay, now I am reassured,

C H U R C H I L L.

Proceed then.

D Y S O N.

The first part of your question is easily answered. Your country is in the same hands, and under a few more trifling embarrassments, than those which were accustomed to give you so much offence. The Scotch, Mr. Churchill, the Scotch are a very fine people. You will allow them to be very generous in taking off our hands, almost all the fatigue and danger of government; and very patient too under greater loads of our treasury lumber, than any poor nation before was ever encumbered with. They are ex-

cellent stewards, and we could not, in my humble opinion, have committed the œconomy of our Exchequer into better hands. Would you think, that since your time, with infinite demands at home, and a very expensive war abroad, they have not dipped more than fifty Millions ; and then they live so well, and are so generous to their poor Dependants, and do so much credit to the liberality of their Master, and send such waggon loads of wealth into Scotland, and laugh so in their sleeves, and ——

C H U R C H I L L.

* Gracious God, look down upon my country : What must this come to ? The Scotch in power, lord Bute prime minister.

D Y S O N.

No, lord Bute is not prime minister. He has placed a poor weather-beaten figure on the box, whilst he himself rides snugly on the inside, and holds a string to check him when he pleases. The Scotch are not in appearance foremost. What then ! All the wealth, and all the power of the nation are in effect, in their hands. They hold the kernel, and leave English adventurers to
fatten

fatten on the shell. I must do them the justice, indeed, to say, that wherever they find an Englishman of *northern principles*, (and many Englishmen there are, and more there will be of such principles) he is admitted into the gang, and receives a share of the booty. I myself, for example, was in vast request amongst them. They could not have loved or trusted me more had I been born beyond the Tweed. True, indeed, I deserved their confidence. The King, his favourite lord Bute, and his counsellor lord Mansfield, were my Trinity in Unity. I adored the first almost as much as God the Father ; and the two last more than the Son and H— G—.

C H U R C H I L L.

Blasphemous slave !

L O R D R U S S E L L.

Patience, my good friend. Did not you yourself assure me, that all men in modern courts must *fall* before they can *rise* ; the creature before us is abject to an extreme ; but then servility is the badge of his profession. I would no more expect to find a man of spirit in the Court, after your report of it, than a sound sheep in a rotten flock, or a
Vestal

Vestal in a brothel. Do, Mr. Dyson, proceed, and give us some account of the expensive war you just now mentioned, and why entered into.

C H U R C H I L L.

Let him spare us the recital. Montgomery has already informed me. But tell me how you have left my FRIEND; combating, I suppose, as usual, the invasions of the prerogative, and crowned with the applause of his fellow citizens.

D Y S O N.

Yes, he has combated with all his might, the extending of the power of the crown, which (to deal ingenuously) we meditated and stopped the progress of usurpation, where it must have encroached on the constitutional rights of the people. His attachment to the cause he espoused, his contempt of danger, his piercing discernment into the corruptions of the court; for many indeed there were; his happy talent of exposing these corruptions to the contempt and detestation of the nation, his complete knowledge of the virtues and excellence of the constitution, his sincere and honest defence when
ever

ever danger threatened it, rendered him a most desirable Champion to a people who loved their freedom, and a most formidable Antagonist to every administration who wished to overturn it. In short, gentlemen, but for him the charter of your insolent Countrymen had been precarious and despicable. With such tools as we held in our hands, the whole Scotch nation to a man, and at least one third of the English, who receive the wages of the king, or are under the influence of those who do, must not our success have been infallible? We must have carried our point. But he—he awed us into honesty, terrified us into moderation; we despaired of eluding his vigilance, and we had no hope of shaking his courage, or corrupting his integrity. But for him, I might have lived to see bayonets at the breasts of the stubborn yeomanry. I might have lived to see the fruits of city thrift transferred from *Lombard Street* to the *Exchequer*. I might have seen, good God, what might I not have seen, if that Dæmon had not stood in our way, and thrown a damp upon the system of reformation we had laid down, and meant to carry into execution. I see that you, my lord, and you Mr. Churchill, look upon me with amazement and indignation; but allow me to say, that Some are made to save; Others to destroy. You, my lord, and your colleague,
Mr.

Mr. Sydney, felt nodoubt a pleasure, which I could not feel in mounting the scaffold, and becoming martyrs to the constitution of your country. That was your glory, your satisfaction, of which I confess I had no conception. To steal into the old gothic sanctuary of British freedom, and enrich myself with some substantial pillage, was mine. If the patriot had not guarded the door, every ornament which the blood of ages had purchased, and the piety of our Ancestors consecrated to the service of the public, had been torn down, and of course become the plunder of me and my fellow servants. He spoiled our fortunes, and we will never forgive him.

CHURCHILL.

O, glorious Man, how I long to see thee here, to lead thee into the grove appointed for thy residence, to crown thee with never-fading laurels, to bless thee with the converse of spirits like thyself. My *friend*, my *friend*, how my heart exults in the name. Who would not be virtuous? the friend of his country? Eternal fame and honour attend him in the world above, and still more, unceasing bliss awaits him in this.

DYSON.

Not so fast Sir. His fame and honour, I assure you, have begun to diminish in the
world

world above, and on the very spot, where one would think it ought to have continued immortal. What think you of the City deserting him?

CHURCHILL.

Impossible!

DYSON.

Not at all, Sir, he was once the God of their idolatry; but they have taken him down and set up another.

CHURCHILL.

Some nobler, braver, bolder, better man, then I forgive them.

DYSON.

O yes, a much better man, an hundred thousand pounds at least better than the poor Patriot. As to his bravery and boldness, he has given some very convincing proofs of them too; first, without any recommendation to the favour of the public, he was brave enough to oppose himself to your *friend*, who had *claims* upon their gratitude. And secondly, without any temptation, he was so resolute as to break the laws your *friend* had with so much care protected, and to become out of mere wantonness an Usurer.

C

LORD

L O R D R U S S E L L.

Pray, Mr. Dyson, do not you be too brave, and say the thing that is not. Nothing is deemed more flagitious here than falshood, nor punished with more severity. Recollect yourself, and as you would wish to escape the whips of the Furies, do not utter such fables; for it appears to me altogether absurd and incredible, that men so famed for the love and encouragement of patriotism as the citizens of London, could prefer such a creature as you have mentioned, without any recommendation to their esteem, and discard a man, who had merited so largely of them as the *friend* of Mr. Churchill; so take care.

D Y S O N.

I do assure your lordship, that though I never spoke truth in the other world, I have been guilty but of one falshood in this. Mercury, in our descent hither, laid on me so handsomely for that, with his Caduceus, that I have no wish he would repeat the discipline. What I have said, may appear improbable, but nevertheless is true.

C H U R C H I L L.

What discard! the man who had saved them and their posterity from slavery, and prefer an Usurer! it cannot be. An usurer!
you

you must have belied them; they could not be so lost to all decency and honour; you must have been mistaken.

D Y S O N.

Hear me patiently, and as I hope for some remission of the punishment decreed me by Minos, I will give you a candid and fair relation of the fact, then judge for yourselves. A considerable post in the gift of the city happening to be vacant, your friend relying on his services, and the sense of them, impressed as he imagined too deeply on the hearts of the citizens ever to be effaced, applied for this post. He expected to find gratitude, amongst a people for whom he had sweated water and blood: but mark the issue. The citizens, (amongst whom, by the way, politeness has made a large progress) most wisely and morally determined to remember a few private irregularities he had been at some time guilty of, and to forget all his public services.

C H U R C H I L L.

I hope they will soon forbid the sun to shine upon them, because he has a few spots on his surface.

D Y S O N.

They listened most eagerly to our emissaries, who were very busily employed

ployed at that time ; for you must know we strained every nerve to disappoint the man who had so often and so bitterly disappointed us. We encouraged the retch I have mentioned. A fellow we all despised, but—who was we knew perfectly in our interests, and would sell his country, nay his soul to perdition, for a little money, to set up in opposition to the Patriot. We solicited most strenuously, and were lavish of oaths, promises, bribes : he, relying firmly on the gratitude of his generous countrymen, did not ask the support of a single voter. He assured himself, that after being buffeted by the tempest, and shattered in their service, they would conduct him into a safe and quiet harbour ; and suffer him to repose in peace for the remainder of his life. We on the contrary, lest the people should remember the dangers he had encountered, the rights he had defended, the tyranny he had opposed, the constitution he had confirmed, hired every little news-paper writer, every wretched pamphleteer to abuse him : Bate to pinch him in entendre, Shebbeare to spatter him with dirt, and Johnson to knock him down with polysyllables. Contrary to our hope, our schemes succeeded ; Liberty fell, Usury was exalted ; what think you now of the good citizens ?

LORD

L O R D R U S S E L.

What you say staggers my belief. It is indeed incredible that the multitude, giddy and foolish, and capricious as they are, would fall down and worship a beast, because, like Aaron's calf, he was covered over with gold, and forsake a man, who, as you most truly say, *sweated blood* in their service. It is a stupidity, an abomination not rationally to be accounted for; it will be ranked hereafter amongst those beastly follies, that have polluted, and debased, human nature. The historian will blush when he records it. In all my reading I cannot find a parrallel. The Romans forsook Brutus, their god-like deliverer, to follow the standards of Anthony, that slave and pander to the lusts of their former tyrant; but then these Romans were the lowest and basest of the people accustomed to the yoke of Cæsar, and insensible of the blessing offered them. This same unhappy people in the days of their degeneracy, saw the *horse* of one of their emperors, a consul; but they only acquiesced in an insult they were incapable of revenging: they did not of their own free choice elect the horse: Beside, an horse compared to an Usurer is an innocent animal. An horse could not be guilty of such multiplied baseness
and

and wickedness. Nothing but human nature in its rottenest state of corruption can cause to his kind such mischiefs as the usurer, the merciless wretch who applies his lips to the soft veins of Infants and Minors, and sucks out their life blood, entraps the honest and incautious, heaps necessities upon the Neccessitous, and makes that wealth, which in proper hands might be the generous instrument of happiness to multitudes, the ruin of their fortunes, the inflamer of their appetites, the causes of momentary and barren joys, and of lasting misery and disquiet. And yet an Usurer you say was preferred by the wise and patriotic citizens, to One who for years had stood in the breach and guarded the constitution, who had exposed to the contempt they merited, a cowardly court, and a corrupt administration; and drawn upon himself all that vengeance which the detection of turpitude never fails to exasperate; who, with a discretion seldom, and a firmness scarcely ever paralleled, walked steadily for years on the brink of a precipice, whilst the thousand hands of a leprous and vindictive Generation were hourly stretched forth to push him in; who had watched, fought, written, bled for the freedom of his country. To such a man they preferred an Usurer. Good God! my moderation begins to forsake me—was there ever such an instance of folly and ingratitude; who
will

will now appear for them? who will now stand forth in their behalf?

C H U R C H I L L.

He, the man they have injured, would again stand forth in his country's defence, if again his country needed his assistance. Meanly as they have treated him, I, who have fathomed his heart, know, he would not desert them. The immorality of one candidate displeased the citizens; pray was the mean odious ugly *vice* of the other acceptable to them?

D Y S O N.

Usury, you mean?

C H U R C H I L L.

I do, Dyson. He was not absolutely convicted before the election of such practices, though the suspicion might well, without any want of Christian charity, lie against him.

L O R D R U S S E L.

That circumstance, Mr. Churchill, is some extenuation of the citizens offence, though not altogether an excuse of their conduct.

Alto-

C H U R C H I L L.

Altogether—Not at all, my lord. Public honours ought to be the reward only of Those who have signalized themselves in the service of the Public. If ever they can with propriety be conferred on private men, it must be when there is a total dearth of public men. Upon what pretence can a man only of private merit lay claim to the favour of the public. I think upon none. If he has demeaned himself well in his ward or parish, let this ward or parish regard him accordingly; but the man whose benefits take not in a parish or a county, but spread far and wide, and embrace a mighty empire, such a man ought to be looked up to as the *Father* and *Guardian* of the people, statues should be raised to him, his image should be pedestalled upon every heart, his praises be founded from every tongue. Every acknowledgement in the power of the people ought to be laid at his feet. But, when the people, instead of paying due honours to public spirit, make their favour cheap and contemptible, by lavishing the rewards of merit on Wretches, not only void of all noble and generous qualities, but heaped up with the basest and most contemptible vices, they dishonour themselves, dishearten their best and bravest champions, and disserve the cause it is their interest to support,

port, the cause of Liberty. *Contemptu famæ contemni virtutem.* Who now will feel that spur that has animated and quickened the noblest spirits into zeal for the public good? Who will regard the applause of the citizens, who court their favour, when it must be shared with such a REPTILE as their present favourite. None now will feel that generous ardour, but the few who love virtue for its own sake, and prosecute the happiness of their country, from no other motive, but that of satisfying their own hearts. And how few these are, your lordship need not be informed. The century that can boast three such men, may account itself rich indeed. But the best efforts of these few will be of none effect, unless seconded by the consent and approbation of the multitude; their voice, their complaints, their remonstrances, their indignation, must speak through the mouths of their patriots, or they will never bear terror to the ears of a guilty administration, nor can the most strenuous exertions of their most able DEFENDERS, whilst the nation is sunk in a stupid lethargy, equally fond of those who labour to bind, as those who endeavour to take off their chains, produce them either honour or profit. If they were sensible of their situation what dangers threaten the constitution, how corrupt their representatives, how bold and profligate their adver-

D

saries?

saries; they would unite as one man, support with all their might the man capable of supporting their just claims, and securing the constitution. They would give every encouragement, even to the appearances of virtue, and lose no opportunity of rewarding the actual services of their real friends. They would rid themselves of their usurer, shake him off as something loathsome to their nature, destructive and fatal to their very existence. They would take back to their bosoms the man who long and deservedly possessed them, and teach the rising generation a lesson of all others the most useful, a lesson in which old Rome instructed her children that public honours must be the rewards only of those who have deserved well of the public.

LORD RUSSELL.

I wish Mr. Churchill, our countrymen had heads to comprehend, and hearts to feel the full force of such doctrines. But I am afraid that having made one slip, they will be ashamed to retrieve it. In general, the obstinacy of error induces mankind to a repetition of their folly. I do not know how they can continue this *usurer* in his place, but still I have my fears.

DYSON.

they had placed him, to indulge not open or manly vices, but to skulk into the dark, and to contrive with Jews and brokers how to extend a fortune, which before had scarcely any limit. They will recollect all the merits of him whom once they most justly idolized, and think the treatment he experienced, very unworthy *him*, and most disgraceful to *themselves*. It will, I hope, appear to them not only dishonourable to deprive the labourer of his hire, but impolitic to detach by their ingratitude from the service of his country, a man of all others the most capable of assisting it. Will not the conduct of the court instruct them? The morals of its servants are not, I believe, looked closely into; pray, Mr. Dyson, were you so squeamish in the choice of your officers as the city?

D Y S O N,

Not at all, Sir, immorality weighed very little with us. We cared not what the morals of our servants were, from the first lord of the admiralty down to the paymaster general of the forces; and from the paymaster of the forces down to our boxers at Brentford, provided they did as they were desired. Upon some occasions, indeed, the want of principle was rather a service than a disservice, to the fortunes

tunes of some amongst us, as these desperate men were always ordered out on every desperate occasion; and thought the best instruments of effecting what men of any delicacy or principle refused to appear in. *Quanto perdetior quisque eo acrius urget.* Squeamish, not at all. I have known some men to have thrived like some plants, exactly in proportion to the quantity of ordure at their roots,

C H U R C H I L L.

Then I trust, when there are men covered all over with scabs and blotches, employed by the court to extend the power of the crown, that a few spots will not offend in him who has defended and continues to defend the rights of the people. Or if this consideration had not its proper influence, in bringing back the people to a sense of their duty, that they will reflect on the justice of making the remnant of a life happy, which was so freely and frequently hazarded for them and their liberties; on the reproach, it will be to their hearts and understandings, if they a second time exalt the wretch whose vile practices have not only discredited himself, but dishonoured the judgement of his constituents; on the national disgrace of permitting the creatures, who had never toiled in the public field,

field, to go off laden with the harvest, whilst he who held the sickle, and bore the brunt of the day, is cast off to perish in a corner. I have no doubt but they will act justly and generously, and shew themselves not ungrateful for the benefit they have received, nor unworthy the services which may hereafter be rendered them. Of this no more. Let us retire to the grove, and resume the tranquility this relation hath a little ruffled. Alecto will have the honour, Mr. Dyson, of conducting you.

4 OCT 58

F I N I S.

